

March 11, 2022
7 Lake View Terrace
Stafford Springs, CT 06076

Joint Committee on Judiciary
Connecticut General Assembly

Re: Governor's Bill SB 16 "AN ACT ADDRESSING GUN VIOLENCE AND JUVENILE CRIME"

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing today to voice my *strong* opposition to the recently announced Senate Bill 16, An Act Addressing Gun Violence and Juvenile Crime. I am once again disheartened that the Governor and his party would take the opportunity to attack the citizens' rights to arm self defense and cloak such attack as an effort to reduce crime.

Everything after the first page of the bill is a direct restriction against the rights of individuals in Connecticut to seek armed self-protection.

The bill bans the manufacture of firearms without first obtaining a serial number. The tradition of Americans crafting their own firearms goes back generations. It is already against Federal law to transfer a firearm without a serial number. This provision of the bill is nothing more than an attempt by the state to increase the entries into its illegal registry of firearms.

The bill seeks to ban entire classes of firearms simply because they share features with military style weapons. So-call "assault weapons" have no more capability to facilitate harm than any other firearm. They are reviled simply for their appearance. Millions of firearms that were perfectly legal to own and trade before 1994 would now be subject to invasive and illegal registration.

The bill would ban the carry of firearms at polling places and a host of other some-times government functions. Without offering the assurance of safety, proponents of this bill would strip me of the ability to provide for my own.

The bill would allow law enforcement to harass legal firearm owners simply for the practice of carrying their firearms. Owning and carrying a firearm are not crimes. Police should not be able to treat the practice as such. Of course, if a crime *has* been committed, officers are already empowered to demand proof of license in the course of investigation. This provision is merely a tool that opponents to gun ownership hope to use to cudgel legal firearms owners.

I hope you will join me in opposition to this bill and speak to its lack of merit to your fellow committee members, and if necessary, vote against it when time comes.

Kind Regards,

Chad Lariviere